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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMENCING FROM THE 7TH OCTOBER, 1963.

10th October, 1963.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Agartala at 11 A. M. on Thursday, the 10th October, 1963.

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Upendra Kumar Roy, Speaker in the Chair, one Deputy Speaker, two Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and sixteen Members.

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE.

Mr. Speaker : First item of Business to-day is the calling attention Notice that I have received from Shri Aghore Deb Barma on the subject of Cyclone and heavy showers of rain causing havoc in Tripura. I have given consent to the motion of Shri Aghore Deb Barma to-day. Shri Deb Barma will now please read out his Calling Attention Notice.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I desire to call the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to a matter of urgent public importance. The matter in question is as follows :—

(1) The Cyclone and heavy showers of rain caused serious devastation to the people of Tripura on the 7th October, 1963.

(2) In some places means of communication etc. are still cut off.

(3) Some Houses have been completely damaged, in the village of Ranjitnagar, within the municipal area of Agartala, on the whole the entire village has been seriously

affected due to breaches in the embankment.

(4) In the matter as stated in the aforesaid paragraphs the Government should take immediate steps.

You are requested to draw attention of the Minister concerned to this matter.

Mr. Speaker : I will request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Department namely Shri Sachindra Lal Singh to make statement to-day. If the Hon'ble Minister is not in a position to make statement to-day he will kindly give me a date when the Calling Attention Notice will be shown on the order paper for a statement.

Shri S. L. Singh : Honourable Speaker, the Hon'ble Member may be aware that all the stations of Tripura were kept alert about the danger by alarm bell, announcing the approach of the Cyclone. The rivers Khowai, Howra, Gumatia, Dhalai & Kurti, having been in spate some portion, most probably the north eastern portion of the entire Tripura State was victim of the flood damage and damage caused by Cyclone. The loss of lives so far reported is 5, and 6 are missing. Regarding Ranjitnagar, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that Ranjitnagar is outside the Municipal limits, there is no embankment; so no question of damage to embankment arises. The Government is, however, taking measures to rescue the people of that locality. They were alerted beforehand by alarm signal and other precautionary measures were also taken. To the deserving people dry food was supplied and now cheap ration shops have been opened in those places. We are further collecting the data from the stations which have been affected. So these are the statements I have to give you.

First of all such a flood is unprecedented in Tripura ; in Jirania, at places the level of water rose as high as 10 ft. Moreover this was accompanied by Cyclone. So the damage has been serious. The Government will take precautionary steps. Further, Medical Units have been sent to the affected areas.

Mr. Spaker : The next item of business to-day is the general discussion of the budget.

I have got the names of the Members, who will participate in

to-day's debate. I will request them now one by one to speak. First of all, I will request Shri Aghore Deb Barma, the Leader of the Opposition to open the discussion on the budget.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma : Hon'ble Speaker, this is the first day of the Budget Session of this newly constituted Legislative Assembly of Tripura. First of all I would, therefore, congratulate the fighting democratic people of Tripura. I pay my sincere homage to the Martyrs, who laid down their lives in course of the movement for setting up of this Legislative Assembly of Tripura. In the absence of the Leader, Deputy leader and few other elected members of the Opposition Party, who would have competently shouldered the tremendous public responsibility here, the Assembly in its first Session does not appear to be full and complete. The atmosphere here does not appear to be healthy. I hope whole-heartedly for the release of those, who have been detained by the rulling party. I pray for their release sothat the Assembly may become full and the elected Members arrested may discharge their duties and responsibilities to the Tripura public by participating in the Assembly proceedings

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the people of the problem-stricken territory of Tripura anxiously looked forward to the first Session of the Assembly for amelioration of the problems of their daily lives. But discussion of the budget presented in this session will convince that the hopes of the local people have not been fulfilled, and the budget has not been framed with an appropriate out-look. In fact, the present budget has done injustice to the ordinary people. Rupees eight crores out of nine crores in the present budget have been allotted for the residence and comfort of the Government officers. As a result, the people of Tripura do not find the possibility of fulfilment of any of their hopes or removal of any of their grievances. Scrutiny of the budget will reveal that no step for economic up-liftment of Tripura has been taken. For the up.liftment of the un-developed Territory of Tripura the Central Government has for many years past been spending money lavishly. The way in which the present budget has been framed has completely frustrated the

aim of the Central Government. The budget does not permit anybody to hope that in near future firm foundation of the economy of Tripura will be laid or that the people of Tripura will become self-reliant. The budget should have been framed in such a way that the people of Tripura could become prosperous. But the budget presented shows that the major portion of the expenditure has been kept for the building up of the Government officers' quarters and other comforts of the officers and staff. Major portion of the revenue resources has been allotted for that purpose. The budget does not mention any work of public benefit. In brief, the present budget is top heavy and is completely blind to the necessity of improving the standard of living of Tripura people.

The funds allotted under the budget for Health and education are far short of the requirement. Under the present budget the bureaucratic Government has allotted Rupees three crores for Police. Compared to that, the funds allotted for education and health are scanty. This indicates that the present Government of Tripura is putting too much emphasis on Police. I will, therefore, observe that the budget presented will disappoint the Tripura people totally, in as much as 95% of the revenue will be spent for Administrative set-up leaving small fractional portion of the revenue for the up-lift of the masses. In my opinion this budget opens an in-famous chapter in the life of the Tripura Legislative Assembly. I regret to observe that the budget presented will not enthuse the people because the party in power having come to the Assembly with public vote after forming the Government is depending for their own protection on the Police. It is surprising that leaders of national movement, who had occasion to make adverse remarks against the Police, should depend on the Police soon after assuming the power. This picture revealed by the budget is very regrettable. It may be said that coming to power with public vote the men in authority are depending on the police for their protection, rather than on the people.

Mr. Speaker, the point I want to stress is this that the Central Government has been helping the Union Territory of Tripura with crores of rupees to make Tripura self-reliant in the

sphere of economy and the budget should have been framed in conformity with that aim. But the present budget does not permit anybody to think that any attempt has been made to make the economic foundation of Tripura firm. There is no reason to suppose that economic foundation of Tripura will ever be firm.

If we begin to discuss the fund allotted for P. W. D. we will see that rupees 2,37,000/- has been allotted for minor works while Rs. 2,13,200/- has been allotted for office and establishment. This is a sure indication of the fact that major portion of the money has been kept for the comfort and up-liftment of the Government officers. For construction of quarters and Bungalows a sum of Rs. 14,50,700/- has been allotted and a sum of Rs. 32,38,700/- has been allotted for improvement of public roads.

If we go into details we will find that a sum of Rs. 14,50,700/- has been allotted for Police Quarters and Rs. 10,37,400/- for Minor Works-Buildings (Education-Plan and non-plan). So the question of development works for the benefit of the people have been totally ignored. The Hon'ble Ministers in their speeches can always say that they are working for the all round improvement of the people, but in practice it is found that this budget shows nothing but expenditure on office establishments, expenditure on public benefit is quite insignificant as compared to the former.

Tripura is mainly an Agricultural area. Naturally stress should have been laid on agriculture. Improvement of agriculture involves betterment of irrigation facilities. But examination of the present budget reveals that out of Rs. 3,94,800 a sum of Rs. 2,52,200/- only has been allotted for the purpose of irrigation. A sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- has been allotted for flood protection. Deficit of food-grains is a serious problem in Tripura. Nearly 23 thousand tonnes of food-grains are imported in order to make up the deficit. The Hon'ble Minister has referred to this aspect in his speech. But he makes no mention of any step taken to improve the condition of the cultivators. A sum of rupees one lac out of 2 lacs have been allotted for flood protection at Agartala. If we look back to the history of Agartala fifty or sixty years back, we find that in those days flood were not so frequent. But to-day

we find heavy showers cause frequent floods. Formerly there were many water passages and big marshes through which rain water could drain out. The present Government has filled up those low lying lands and has thereby disrupted the drainage system. In the result the ordinary people are suffering extremely Hon'ble Minister in reply to my Calling Attention Notice said that Ranjitnagar was outside municipal limits of Agartala.

Hon'ble S. L. Singh : I draw the attention of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker : I shall request the Hon'ble Member to discuss on the relevant matters.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma : Ranjitnagar is a part of Agartala plan. The Hon'ble Minister has said that there is no embankment, so question of damage of embankment does not arise ; but in reply I would like to say that a few families have been put to troubles due to the damage of the embankment there at five places and I assert that my statement is correct. There is provision for Rupees one lakh for this irrigation work of Agartala. I have my doubts if the said sum is sufficient; and nobody knows how that sum is actually spent. Even light showers make people panic stricken, because floods occur invariably. I would like to know if this one lakh of rupees will relieve the people of Agartala from panic. The provision made in the budget specially for Dharmanagar and Sabroom is practically insignificant. This is nothing but bluff to the people. The budget has not been framed with an eye to improving the conditions of the people. The budget aims at providing comforts to and welfare of the Government officers. Steps should have been taken to introduce better irrigation facilities in order to make Tripura self-sufficient in the matter of food-grains. This matter is of urgent necessity. For example, if steps were taken to erect embankment in various areas for storing rain water that would have increased production of paddy. But the present budget provides the scanty sum of rupees 5 lakhs only for improvement of agriculture. Again to implement that scheme a sum of rupees 9 lacks has been allotted on account of pay of officers, quarters etc. If we look through the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister we find that there is no mention of the Agricultural

Development in the same.

With regard to industries it will be seen some provision has been made in the budget. The fund allotted is for maintainance of industrial units and for their expansion. This is the sample of our budget. Although Tripura is an agricultural territory yet there is scarcity of arable land here. Formerly there were 6 lakhs of cultivators, in place thereof now we have got 12 lakhs of cultivators. From that point of view cultivable land at our disposal is totally insufficient. If the agricultural lands are not increased and maintained, the economic structure of the territory is sure to collapse. Keeping this in view the development of national industries is essential. It is advisable to build up a firm economic foundation by developing the national industries. If Government or non-Government industries are not started to relieve the 12 lakhs of cultivators of Tripura, Tripura will have no hope of economic improvement. Economic improvement without industrial prosperity is absolutely inconceivable. A stronger Tripura, a prosperous Tripura demands all round industrial and agricultural development.

Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech has referred to tribal welfare. The Central Government has been spending lakhs of rupees for betterment of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and backward communities ; because if a section of the people remains backward the improvement of the entire economy may be hampered. But the manner in which we have spent this money for the tribal people is nothing but sheer wastage of money. In the report of Dhebar Commission of 1960, the urgency of Tribal welfare in Tripura was mentioned along with the welfare of tribes of other States. It is necessary to protect the interest of the Tribals in order to make Tripura strong and progressive. But there is no reason to believe that his recommendations will be put into action. It is no good to show some figures under the Head-Tribal Welfare without proper utilisation of the allotted sum. Development of Tripura largely depends on the improvement of the conditions of the Tribals and in that regard steps are urgently called for. If a section of the people remains backward in education and otherwise the country as a whole cannot progress. The country cannot

be prosperous. So steps should be taken to implement other recommendations of Dhebar Commission. The budget, submitted by the Hon'ble Minister does not contain any reference to that Commission's report. In the result I should say that there is no constructive suggestion in this budget. Next I will refer to the refugees. They form a large portion of the inhabitants of Tripura.

Again, we have in Tripura a huge number of refugees on the one hand and a huge number of tribals on the other. So we have various problems of tribals relating to their jhum cultivation to solve. Although the refugees have been told officially that they have been rehabilitated, yet as a matter of fact in large majority of cases they have not been economically rehabilitated. Considered from that point of view it can not be said that we have no economic problems of the refugees to find solution for. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated at one place that the refugees who came to Tripura after exchanging their properties did not create any problem. I wonder how he could speak like that. We have a huge number of tribal jhumias to rehabilitate on land, we have in addition old refugees who have not yet been provided with land. Over and above, new refugees are pouring into Tripura after exchanging their properties. Refugees who came earlier and were unable to purchase land in this Territory are yet awaiting rehabilitation but thousands of refugees are coming over-night to places where mohammedan families had their lands. So I say that the statement of the Hon'ble Minister is incorrect. I do not know if the utterance of the Hon'ble Minister is pregnant with some official or non-official plan. In his statement there is mention of forests. Forests are peculiar features of the Territory of Tripura. In the forests there are lunga lands and other types of land. People of this Territory depend largely on forests. This is the age of science. So the forests will have to be preserved. The problem is how the forests can be preserved after protecting vast masses of men. On the plea of protection of forests to day large number of jhumias are being pushed towards the path of death. The representative of Dhumacherra area is present here and he is aware of the crisis prevalent there. Hon'ble Dy. Minister, Shri R.P. Chowdhury had been there only a few days back. If we look to

the vast area from Dharmanagar to Sabroom we find that no permission has been given to anybody to render any land arable in the reserve forest area. I am not sure if the Ruling Party is determined to push the people of that locality to death in this way. When I was coming across Atharomura after covering 48 miles or more I found 2 young girls standing on the road. They raised their hands to stop the bus and we lifted them up. They were starving for two days. They have not the means to feed themselves as they did not get appropriate payment from the forest office there. In answer to my question they gave out that the Govt. prohibited jhum cultivation and they were now entirely dependent on plantation. Even in that sphere of activity they were faced with a lot of troubles. Within the period of seven days they were not paid their wages. Thus the treatment meted out to the jhumias calls for immediate redress. While referring to Bankar, it has been stated that unfortunately our attention was not drawn to this aspect earlier. Perhaps this means that the limited advantage the jhumias had during the regime of the Administration will now be totally taken away. Will the jhumias be compelled to face death and extinction ? Prohibition of jhum cultivation amounts to sure death of the jhumias. If the jhumias are given lands to-day they will not be able to cultivate low lands immediately. They will have to be given ample opportunities otherwise they will be unable to avoid death. Further steps will have to be taken for export of yield from the land, viz. Jute, Cotton and Til. Formerly some foodgrains used to be exported from Tripura. To-day that has been stopped. Still the ruling party will declare that they have done many things, constructed many houses and mansions, they have done everything. The Govt. has not made any alternative arrangement in place of jhum cultivation. Yet the Hon'ble Finance Minister says repeatedly that they are anxious to increase the production of foodgrains. If jhum cultivation is stopped the total yield of foodgrains in the union Territory of Tripura will dwindle. All the jhumias have not been rehabilitated. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has admitted this fact. I do not understand how even in the above circumstances the Hon'ble Finance Minister could promise increase of production

of foodgrains by 23 thousand tons. Dhebar Commission referred to the backward under developed jhumias and suggested taking of steps for firm economic foundation of their lives. If we push the jhumias out of their normal avocations of life I do not know how we can improve their lot. Dhebar Commission recommended that before rehabilitating the jhumias, jhum cultivation should not be stopped. So if in the name of forest preservation we kill the jhumias, how can we build up a happy prosperous Tripura ? I do not know whether this is our misfortune or good luck. I have no adequate vocabulary to express my feelings. During the bureaucratic period, the Britishers used to depend on the police for preservation of their administrative machinery. Getting into the Legislative Assembly by virtue of the votes of the people to-day the leaders of the Assembly are following the same path. In my opinion this is shameful.

Mr. Speaker : I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member. You are repeating the same thing.

Shri Aghore Deb Barma : We are to maintain a large police force on the borders. On the three sides of the Union Territory of Tripura Pakistan borders exist. I do not know if we will be able to maintain the integrity of Tripura in the above fashion. In Mohanpur area in course of one year only cattle worth Rupees ten to twelve thousands had been lifted. There are B. M. Ps and ordinary police. Still such thefts are continuing. Similar conditions are prevailing in Baishnabpur and Jalaia area and in fact everywhere. Cattle lifting has not been put an end to. In addition to our ordinary police force we have B. M. Ps but thefts are continuing. We have come here on the basis of votes from the people. Therefore I say we will have to depend on the people. But we are depending on the police. Not a single day passes when there is no theft. In the areas mentioned there are people who have no ostensible means of income, yet they are living in a decent style. Is it believable that the police is unable to check them ? The police does not stir. In my opinion there is urgent necessity for taking proper steps for preservation of cattle. Still I can not endorse the suggestion of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that for

preservation of cattle allocation of funds for police budget should be increased. Inspite of the presence of police theft of cattle is taking place every day. I request the Hon'ble Minister to mention the name of any place within this Territory of Tripura where in course of last 10 years for want of administrative machinary taxes could not be realised or where Govt. Tahsil or collecting centres were destroyed and a parallel Govt. was formed and antisocial activities started necessitating establishment of police outposts. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister will fail to name any such place. So I protest against this measure. The ruling party knows, very well what police means to ordinary people. They have ample experience of treatment on the hands of police. I am anxious to know if the relationship between the police and the people has improved in any way. In fact corruption is rampant in the police. They are training the ordinary people in corrupt activities. So I demand that funds under police head should be reduced. Examining the budget we find that out of Rs. 9 crores 37% has been allotted for police. So it is open to us to assert in course of lectures that the police will build up a happy prosperous Tripura, but in reality unhappiness and distress will increase. If there are lawless activities in any portion of Tripura we would extend our co-operation to the Govt. but in course of last 10 years no Tahsil katchari was looted. There was no lawless activity any where. I would, therefore, request not to let police be utilised for the purpose of taking political revenge. I would request the ruling party to spend money in such a fashion that Tripura may become prosperous and we may extend our co-operation to the ruling party in building up such a Tripura. We get our money from the Central Govt. We should take adequate precaution so that the money is well spent. Now holding tax has been imposed on the inhabitants of the town almost forcibly. Before taxes are levied the Govt. should assess the capacity of the people. Tripura should not be compared with Calcutta. Calcutta is a big city whereas Agartala is a small town. In my view the present budget should be thrown out and new budget should be framed so that food position in Tripura may improve. If we spend so much money for the police we would be creating unhappiness in Tripura. I would request the Govt. to

desist from such activity. This is what I mean to say.

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon Shri K. M. Nath Chowdhury of the congress party to speak.

Shri K. M. Nath Choudhury : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, to-day in course of this budget discussion first of all I felicitate the generous people of India because when India itself was under foreign rule they co-operated with the people of Tripura in their struggle for freedom. Next I express my gratitude to the leaders of Tripura and to the martyrs of Tripura who took active part in the struggle for freedom. Then I express my gratitude to the noble king of this State of Tripura, bound on three sides by Pakistan, who helped the integration of Tripura with India and thereby ushered a glorious chapter in the history of India. I am expressing my gratitude to the thinkers of India. During the first stage of democratisation many men came into the Territorial Council ; amongst them Gaya Prasad Trivedi is no longer amidst us. From the opposition side came Gakul Ch. Sinha. He is no longer amidst us. I am invoking their blessings. I pray that they bless the present budget. I now proceed to speak something in support of the present budget.

This is a matter of pride for Tripura that when Tripura is inhabited by 12 lacs of people, we have in our budget from the month of July to March a sum of Rs. 9 crores. This figure does not compare unfavourably with the budget of any other State of India. We can not grumble that we have been given less. Tripura is deficit in food. So discussion of measures for agricultural improvement should take place first. It has been criticised that Officers from outside have been brought at huge expense, but it is patent that in the Union Territory of Tripura we are in dire necessity of experts. We are, therefore, bound to bring experts from outside. If we do not give them proper comfort, experts will be unwilling to come to Tripura. When we are anxious to implement our irrigation schemes we are obliged to bring people from outside. If we proceed to get things done by people with expertise any to economise expenses will mean disaster. Allocation of a sum of Rs. 3 lacs for irrigation schemes is not too much.

The leader of the opposition in course of his budget speech has disappointed us totally. We expected some constructive criticism from him, but he has not offered any. His only criticism is that the lavish fund we are getting from the centre may be spent for the benefit of the people. He is anxious that the money is profitably invested. I was under the impression that they were against capitalism, but now I find that he is a supporter of capitalism. He has expressed his dis-satisfaction over the police budget. The length of our Pakistan border is 730 miles. If we do not protect that extensive border with police, our movement for increasing the production will yield no dividend. The opposition leader has challenged the Govt. to cite one instance justifying increment of expense under police head, In answer I would say that the money allotted has been correctly allotted. Unless we can defend our Territory properly, improvement of the country will not yield us any benefit. We would not be able to enjoy the fruits of improvement. I am, however, thankful to the opposition leader because he considers Pakistan as an enemy of India. While speaking with reference to jhum cultivation he forgot that those who were prevented from jhum cultivation were given opportunities to earn under the afforestation scheme. It is common knowledge that forest wealth of Tripura is fast dwindling, but the work of afforestation is being done with the help of jhumias. The Govt. has increased wages per acre in connexion with afforestation. When the Govt. is giving help to the jhumias the opposition party is encouraging the jhumias to waste the money they are getting. Perhaps the opposition leader is aware that Govt. granted help to jhumias for their rehabilitation in one area, but people from outside kalamchera misled these people and encouraged them to leave that place. I wish the opposition leader had shed some light on the activities of his followers.

I do not know what ideas the opposition leader entertains regarding present day's jails, he should have some precise idea because he was in the jail a few days back. To-day jails in India are far better than they were previously. I expected that the opposition leader would speak with regard to improvement of

condition in the jails, but he did not fulfil my hopes. He is waxing eloquent over the budget. The opposition leader was uncharitable when he criticised the budget and lamented over lack of measures for protecting villages from floods. While doing so he, however, mentioned the protective measures taken to protect towns starting from Sabroom to Dharmanagar.

In regard to industries I may say that the inhabitants of Tripura who went outside to receive proper training are returning and will return soon, but only a limited number of such men are insufficient for our purpose. We are obliged to bring men from outside. Those whom we bring from outside we should provide with residence and other comforts. In so far as I know, our Minister-in-charge of industries have taken steps to establish an Industrial Estate near Dharmanagar. The opposition leader has expressed his misgiving that unless 12 lac inhabitants of Tripura were geared on to industry, Tripura will go to ruins. I think that he wanted to ridicule us when he made that comment. However, the invectives do not matter much. We are sure that in course of next three years we will be able to provide employment to the educated unemployed in the industrial estate proposed to be built.

Hon'ble Speaker, the opposition leader asks why *til*, *cotton* etc. are not exported from Tripura. I do not understand the significance of his question. As far as I am aware there is no legal bar to the export of the said commodities from Tripura.

Examining the long history of the party of the opposition we do not find a single instance when the party helped the Govt. in any way to rehabilitate the refugees. Sitting in this town we heard them giving the slogan "Refugees of Tripura be removed to Delhi". I am at a loss why the opposition leader is all on a sudden so solicitous for the well-being of the refugees to-day. The industrial estate contemplated will improve the economy of Tripura people and will give the refugees ample opportunities to rehabilitate themselves. We can reasonably hope that with the improvement of industry the food position in this Territory will improve. I have tried to meet the objections raised by the opposition leader in my humble way. This is very often said that with the improvement

of Tripura, corruption is permeating life in various insidious ways. Associating myself with the various activities in this Territory I have seen funds coming from the custody of the Govt. spiriting away very often. We should pay our attention to this aspect. We should be careful. We are getting money from the centre, but we must see that the money is properly spent. The magnificent industrial scheme planned by the Govt., therefore, deserves our support. We should see that its implementation is not hampered in any way. With these words I conclude my speech in support of the budget.

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Shri Monoranjan Nath from the Government side to make his speech on the budget.

Shri Monoranjan Nath : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, this is the first day of Tripura Legislative Assembly and is therefore memorable. After the tremendous struggle for years by all the Union Territories and after strenuous struggle by the inhabitants of Tripura, the Union Territories Act was passed and thereafter the Tripura Legislative Assembly was formed. On account of this the people of Tripura are manifesting their un-controlable joy. National leaders will surely make the country prosperous within a short time.

It is well known that Tripura has various problems. It is bound on three sides by Pakistan. Naturally Tripura is to face the problem of refugees, the problem of border and the problem of communications. That is admitted. The leader of the opposition has referred the backwardness of Tripura in the matter of industries. The ruling party is giving attention to this aspect and will do its best to make Tripura industrially advanced. Communist China has started aggression on Indian territory and has formed a pact with Pakistan. They are supporting Pakistan in every matter. Pakistanis very often cross Tripura border and enter into this Territory and create various troubles. Pakistan is massing troops along the border. For this reason Union Territory of Tripura is put to expenses on account of defence; and other aspects are naturally suffering. The newly constituted Legislative Assembly has taken upon itself the responsibility of the problem stricken Tripura

surrounded by enemies on all sides. Accordingly all the Members of this Assembly, Ministers and the Administrator should join together and try jointly for the solution of the problems of Tripura.

In connection with budget discussion we should first of all take into consideration our income. From the budget placed by our Hon'ble Chief Minister who is also the Finance Minister it is seen that our income is only 55 lakhs 37 thousands where as our expenditure in Rupees 9 Crores 47 lacs 30 thousands.

If we Compare the income with the expenditure it will be evident that we have too small an income. Therefore priorities in expenditure should be carefully arranged. In the present budget steps have been taken for partial solution of the pressing problems of the time. I hope that Members of this Assembly and Government officers will see that funds allotted for different purposes are properly and honestly spent. During the last year the Territorial Council improved Tripura in various ways. This year the Legislative Assembly has taken upon itself that duty. I am confident that the Legislative Assembly will be able to improve Tripura. I would now refer to activities on our sides, to which the Hon'ble Members have made reference. Tripura is a deficit area and every year 23 thousands tons of food-grains has to be imported. The Government side is trying to see that this deficit is made good. To solve the food problem the Agriculture Department has started activities of various kinds, namely. they have started using various machineries, irrigating lands, putting up embankments, advancing agricultural loans and supplying seeds. These activities induce me to say that Tripura will be self-reliant within a short time and will not be dependant on others for food.

Discussion on agriculture involves discussion of pisciculture. There is deficit of fish in Tripura. To make up the deficit in fish in Tripura the Legislative Assembly has adopted a plan for increasing the output of fish. For that purpose fishery tanks have been cleared and spawns are being distributed amongst our people. I believe if the activities are continued shortage of fish will vanish soon.

If we look to education we find un-precedented advancement. The education system prevailing in Tripura is good. Compared with last year the number of educational institutes has increased this year. Certainly this means advancement in the field of education.

The money allotted for education in the budget seems to me to be justified. The opposition leader has commented that the allotment is inadequate for our requirements. I would say it may be so none the less, it suits the circumstances prevailing at the time. If the opposition leaders focus their attention to the education measures taken in the Colleges and educational institutions opened in the villages they will realise how un-realistic and meaningless their criticism is

It has been said that no emphasis has been laid on industries. I do not admit that such criticism is justified. In the budget a decent sum has been allotted for the industries. The sum is not inadequate for our requirements. The industries growing up under Government patronage are blacksmithy, bamboo and cane works and others. The industries planned at present will in near future absorb unemployed men of Tripura and will lead Tripura to the path of progress.

The criticism levelled by the opposition leaders against P. W. D. is not well founded. Under the Territorial Council many roads were built and developed and means of communication in Tripura have considerably developed. The Government has launched plans for further improvement of means of communication. The first rail line in Tripura has advanced up to Dharmanagar, and this rail line will establish Tripura's contact with outside world. The criticism of the leader of the opposition regarding Engineers are un-realistic. The Government of Tripura are trying to rehabilitate the Jhumias. Only in Kanchanpur nearly 2 lacs of rupees have been spent for rehabilitating Jhumias. This includes relief and other loans. In those areas fair price shops have been opened and these shops are supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 18/- per maund. These measures normally indicate that the Government are trying their best to rehabilitate Jhumias and the criticism levelled by the opposition is not justified.

Coming to the problem of health I should say that the Territorial Council opened many dispensaries and hospitals for the benefit of the local people. There is shortage of Doctors in Tripura and this stands in the way of opening further institutions. The steps taken at present for training up boys and girls of Tripura outside the State will in future remove this shortage and many more hospitals and dispensaries will be established. I can not say that the number of dispensaries, we have at present, is short of our requirement. Now I will discuss civil administration and offer some suggestions. Magistrates, who are at present functioning are fairly competent. I suggest that in future lawyer Magistrates may be appointed as Magistrates. With regard to the appointment of Munsiff I have one suggestion to offer. At present they exercise pecuniary jurisdiction upto Rs. 2000/- Their present jurisdiction should be increased, because the price of land has gone up and many men are unable to file suits in the courts of Munsiffs.

Mr. Speaker : I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member and I shall request him to discuss on the relevant matters.

Shri Monoranjan Nath : I will finish my speech by making a reference to the Police. The opposition has ridiculed the Police. It is true that a sum of rupees will be spent for Police. But in order to defend Tripura and to suppress anti-social activities within the Territory the Police expenses cannot be curtailed. If necessary further appointments in the Police Department may be made and increased expenses, therefor will be justified. With these words I conclude my speech.

Mr. Speaker : I call on Shri P. Das of the Ruling Party to participate.

Shri P. Das : Hon'ble speaker, Sir, before making my speech in support of the budget to-day I will heartily praise on behalf of the 12 lakhs of inhabitants of Tripura those people, who have framed the budget, keeping in view the requirements of the people and the fulfilment of their hopes. They have worked hard and thought very deeply.

Funds have been allotted in the budget under various schemes.

I will make reference only to a few items. On the whole the present budget is a deficit budget. The revenue resources of Tripura comes upto Rs. 55,37,300/-, but the expenditure to be incurred is Rs. 9,37,62,000/-. In the circumstances it is un-disputed that expense far exceeds the income. In view of this aspect the allotment of fund may not fully fulfil the hopes of the people. But in the present circumstances nothing more could be done. Only the pressing works, which can be undertaken in the circumstances, have been started. The opposition leader has with some justification characterised the present budget as top heavy. If the opposition leader had taken realistic view in connection with the tribal welfare he would have seen that more than rupees 1 crore 30 lakhs 57 thousand and five hundred has been spent in the meantime for the welfare of the Tribal People. Upto this time 2700 Jhumia families have been helped in various ways all in the matter of their rehabilitation. By opening exhibitions and gardens they have been given proper employment. Two education centres and 5 students' hostels have been established. This is only a partial picture of one side of the welfare. It will not be unfair to claim in the circumstances that education has advanced. In view of our requirement the progress may be insufficient. But because of our income further progress can not be made. Unfortunately when the Government was trying to improve the lot of landless undeveloped communities in Khowai and other places Members of a particular political party were creating troubles. Vast tracts of land are necessary for rehabilitation of the tribals, but the opposition party has started a movement to further their aim and to create obstacles. Further demands for increasing book grants, establishment of free boarding stipends etc. may be made. But the poor income of the Tripura Territory stands in the way, and all the problems cannot possibly be solved at a time. The Legislative Assembly has its responsibility to remove the difficulties of the refugees. Any man with a realistic approach will easily understand that the problem cannot be solved overnight. Discussing the Education budget we find that Tripura has taken rapid strides in the sphere of education within a very short time. The manner

in which the present budget has been framed is really commendable. The budget plans increasing the number of students in the M. B. B. College and to give greater facilities in the matter of carrying on research in science. The measure adopted at huge cost for imparting military training is also praise-worthy. One should not miss the allotment made for the Polytechnic institution under the head Education.

Inspite of various difficulties in the matter of establishing industries in Tripura steps have been taken to develop industries. This is admirable. The measures taken to develop handloom, and other cottage industries and Khadi are timely and praise-worthy. The Government have done well in allotting fund for the purpose. From the opposition side it is said that it is not sufficient to allot fund only. They say that they do not find anything in the budget which promises increase in production, in the near future. But if the budget is closely examined they may see that measures taken for increasing agricultural produce promise a return of 1 lakh 73 thousand tons of food-grains. The money we are spending will not, therefore, go waste but will also increase production. One more relevant matter is that steps have been taken to prepare manure locally and for production of chemical fertilizer. These measures are timely and they are, therefore, expected to remove the poverty of our people. The budget strikes a happy balance amongst conflicting claims. I will, therefore, support the budget and will hope that the Government side and the Government officers, and also people in general will whole-heartedly try to implement the happy ideas germane in the budget.

In the matter of Jhumias forest reserve has caused some inconvenience to them. But the opposition admits that forests are a source of wealth of Tripura, on which our economy is very much dependant. So if some inconvenience has been caused to the Jhumias for protecting the forest that inconvenience will not have to be tolerated as a necessary consequence. Steps have however been taken to compensate the Jhumias. So one cannot condemn the budget. Supporting the Budget I conclude my speech.

Smti. Renu Chakraborty : Hon'ble Speaker, Sri, for the budget presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister I thank him whole heartedly, I thank the Central Government also. When our revenue resources comes upto Rs. 55 lakhs and when the budget envisages expenditure of more than Rs. 13 crores, they are surely to be praised. In Tripura we have various problems, like food problem and problem of communication. But the Chief problem is the food problem. Unless we solve the problem of our food, the country can not progress and connot be completely self-reliant. Even during the last year we had to import 23000 tonnes of food-grains. Although production of our food-grains has increased, yet population has also increased considerably So the quantity of food-grains we have here is not sufficient for our requirements and this year again we have to import 23000 tonnes of food-grains. To increase the production of food-grains the Chief Minister has adopted various scientific and economic measures for which he deserves to be praised and I congratulate him for that reason.

Then comes education. Education is the basis of civilization and awakens humanity in us. For that reason education in other countries is treated as part of civilization. In Tripura various steps have been taken for spread of education and advancement in the sphere of education is already discernible. In all the Sub-divisions of Tripura and in villages schools and high schools have been established, for that I congratulate the Tripura Government. Further, the plan to give free education to children of the age group 6 to 11 years already adopted is extremely praiso-worthy. Children form the back-bone of the nation and unless steps are taken to educate the children the future of the country becomes black. Attention has been paid to various aspects of education. Measures have been adopted for starting a B. T. College here. This is praise-worthy. This means drainage of wealth. The measure taken will save our money. Science laboratory has also been erected. This is worthy of mention.

In the sphere of culture, Tripura has a glorious history. That history is not confined within the limits of Tripura. People outside Tripura praise Tripura for its culture. I am very glad to know

that the Government is paying attention to this side. Under the patronage of the Government a music college has been established in Tripura and an auto-mobile training college has also been established here. Local boys have been immensely benefitted. Formerly they were required to go outside to receive training before they could earn anything. Now they will no longer be required to go outside. They will have opportunity of training here and earning there livelihood. This means that foundation of our economy has been well laid. Various plans have been adopted for the well being of the refugees. They are being trained in various arts and crafts. True, we say that the refugees have been rehabilitated. But in that matter one should not depend entirely on the Government initiative. Unless we exert ourselves we will never be self-reliant. Taking help from the Tripura Government and shunning idleness we should try to make ourselves self-reliant.

To implement our plans we require funds. We require power for our industries. The plan to get electricity from Hydro-electric project at Umiam in Assam is highly commendable. We have under consideration our Dombru project. These are landmarks on the economy of Tripura.

You all know that means of communication in Tripura are undeveloped. For development of civilization and economy the means of communication require to be developed immediately. During the rains communication between the Sub-Divisions becomes disrupted. We require bridges and culverts. For want of bridges we could not implement our plan resulting inconvenience to us. To remove this we have built more bridges. For example we have bridges on the river Howra, Gunti and Burima. We propose to build bridges over some more rivers.

In the territory of Tripura we have 3 lakhs 60 thousands of tribal people. Steps taken by the Central Government for improving economic condition of the tribals are very good. Formerly the tribals could not speak even. Now they are getting proper education. Reservation has been made for them in all spheres. The tribals have, therefore, taken admirable steps towards progress. Coming to forest reservation I am to say that we shall progress

economically if people co-operate with us in the matter of cultivating land in the forest.

We have limited resources ; even then we have allotted rupees 3 crores for the police. No doubt it is a peaceful country we want to live in peace and co-operation with our neighbours. Trusting our neighbours we diverted our entire attention to nation building projects. But treacherous China has committed acts of aggression and forfeited our confidence. Pakistan is also crossing our borders repeatedly in furtherance of inemical designs. In view of this and our long border we consider it necessary to increase our border police force. Further anti-social activities have increased in Tripura, and these elements may ultimately help our enemy, China. To suppress these activities we require a Police force. Police Officers are our men. If we co-operate with the Police we may perhaps bring complete peace within the territory of Tripura. Considered from that point of view too much money has not been allotted for police. To implement our plan we require co-operation of all the inhabitants of Tripura. If the people of Tripura refrain from adverse criticism of the Government and if they in their individual capacities serve the nation, no doubt Tripura will progress within a very short time.

JAI HIND

Mr. Speaker : The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P. M. when the discussion will be resumed.

The house met again at 2-30 P. M.

Mr. Speaker : General discussion of the budget. Now I would call upon Shri Sunil Dutt of the congress side to participate in the discussion.

Shri Sunil Dutt : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, The Hon'ble Finance Minister has placed before us the budget for 9 months of the current year and I support the said budget. The things which call for attention for constituting the small Territory of ours into a welfare state have been taken into consideration in the budget. Various sums allotted for various purposes under the budget will go a

long way to improve the condition of Tripura. Tripura for which we have prepared the budget should be intimately known. Tripura has a history. Do we know that ? Rajmala is considered to be the history of Tripura, but properly speaking Rajmala is not history. It gives us only the legends about it. At that time the border kingdoms were the kingdom of Assam, Jayantia, Khasia and Bengal All those kingdoms have their respective histories. Elements of history of Tripura are their in Tripura itself. But we do not try to sort out those elements. In Sonamura, Sabroom, Belonia sub-divisions and areas within those sub-divisions we find images of various deities scattered. History of Tripura can be constructed from these images. If we construct the history of Tripura that will benefit Tripura. Reading the history of Kamrup the other day I found that Vaskar Varman, king of Kamrup presented the Chinese Ambassador with Halhali silk of Tripura. The history mentions the places where this kind of silk used to be manufactured. Those places are within the borders of Tripura. The Chinese Ambassador spoke very highly of that present. To improve the Administrative machinery of the State the king of Tripura invited the Bengalees, they were also invited to introduce improved methods of cultivation. In Tripura besides Tripuris lived tribals, viz. the Reang, Halam, Mag, Zamania, Noatia, Kukis etc. If we do not know them intimately we would not be able to convert Tripura into a welfare state. The refugees who have come from Pakistan are unable to produce their food from the lands in Tripura because they are not accustomed to cultivate such lands. Formerly they cultivated 'nal' lands. In some cases we have given nal lands to the aborigines. In some cases we have not been able. There are some areas in Tripura where oranges can be grown. in some areas superior type of betels can be grown. Problems should have been nearer solution by this time. The reasons for the delayed solution are there. One political party is trying to misled the people of Tripura. Jhumias were given nal lands. But unfortunately leaving behind such good lands they have gone away. If we do not convince the aborigines about our intention mere allotment of funds in the budget will yield no result. I request the leader of the opposition

allotted for development of fisheries is also proper. Many tanks are unreclaimed. They should be cleared up and fish should be reared therein. The inhabitants of Tripura consume fish as a principal item of food. The Govt. Officers of the fishery Deptt. can rear fish in tanks and beals in Tripura. Steps may also be taken for rearing of fish through co-operatives. The money allotted under the head agriculture may not yield any tangible result in course of this year, but I am sure it will have the way for improvement in near future.

Coming to education, I must say that in this sphere Tripura has considerably advanced. During the days of Territorial Council steps were taken to educate children of the age group 6-11. Number of primary schools meant for those children have been considerably increased. We have also increased the number of Higher Secondary schools, but we are in need of competent lecturers. We have increased the number of Sr. Basic schools, but here again scarcity of craft teachers stares us in the face. Teachers from West Bengal are not available here. Our boys are getting themselves trained outside. We are utilising their services. We are getting teachers from outside also. The circumstances in which we have been placed do not encourage the prospects of establishment of heavy industries. Accordingly we should lay emphasis on small industries and cottage industries. Appropriate steps have been taken in that matter under the budget. I would request the Minister concerned to focuss his attention on cottage industries. I am of opinion that cottage industries will be to our benefit.

Under the P. W. D. moneys have been allotted for major and minor roads, for construction of hospitals. Besides them another important item is irrigation. For improving agriculture, irrigation measures are urgently called for. We do not have rains when we require water. And at time we have abundance of rains when we do not require water. Thus it accounts for our deficit in food. We should avail ourselves of scientific measures to get out of this situation. Besides small rivers we have in Tripura rivulets. Various crops are produced from the month of Baisakh to the month of Magh. If we regulate these rivulets and harness them for the

purpose of irrigating lands they may increase our yield and may remove our deficit in food.

Regarding tribal welfare I should say that we have given them huge sums of money by way of doles. We have helped them properly to enable them to grow orchards, and to rear up pigs and poultry. I appeal to my tribal brothers and sisters earnestly so that they can utilise the loans given and can co-operate with the Govt. The problems can be solved through co-operation and not otherwise. Formerly Scheduled tribes in Tripura used to augment their income by means other than jhum cultivation and agriculture. They used to cut down trees in the forests and to sell the timber and fuel to dealers. In that way they had opportunities to earn. Frequent inroads by the Pakistani have deprived them of those opportunities. The Govt. has been anxiously considering other means of augmenting their income. The Govt. is encouraging the tribals in the matter of poultry farming. Looked at from this point of view it is evident that the Govt. is trying its best for tribal welfare. Sometimes difficulties are encountered because when Govt. grant loans to tribals and encourage them in their activities then members of a political party create various troubles. The members of this political party preach amongst the aborigines that Govt. does not want or mean their welfare. Unless we get rid of such jaundiced views, we would not be able to bring welfare to the tribals and all Govt. measures will fail. We very often see the tribals selling away good arable lands to others. If in the face of the above measures the opposition party says that we are doing nothing for tribal welfare, I must say that their accusation has no edge. Their arguments have no force.

Forests are source of income for the Tripura Govt. Forest products bring money. Adequate steps, therefore, should be taken to preserve the forests. The Govt. has taken steps to plant trees and to preserve trees, in various areas. Income from forests may be small to-day, but in future the income from forests may increase considerably and will bring in prosperity of Tripura. I do not think that inhabitants of Tripura should have anything to complain when forests have been reserved. We see that railway line has

party to start their propaganda among the jhumias in such a fashion sothat they live in the areas where they have been given lands. The jhumias are granted loans, but they remain idle and eat up the sums allotted. No question of repayment of loan rises, but the loans remain unfruitful. Unless we build up the proper mental make up of our people, allotment of money under the budget will be in vain and the improvement of the country will be as remote as it is to-day. The leader of the opposition has criticised the allotment of money for the police and made a grievance that there was no occurrence within the last 10 years warranting allotment of such heavy sums for police budget. He has gone so far as to charactarise the present phase of Tripura history as shameful. The Hon'ble member has confined deliberately the scope of history to last 10 years. He knows very well that little more than 10 years back, two months prior to an election how violently the Communist party behaved armed with lethal weapons in Kamalpur area. Who belaboured the tax collecting staff of Salema Tahsil when they went to collect tax? I dare say that those men were men of the communist party. They preached amongst the people not to pay tax. They preached that the Govt. had no right to realise taxes and they would set up an alternative Govt. The occurrences in Khowai and Kamalpur took place more than 10 years back. Only a few days back police recovered gun powder and ammunition from some areas. Accordingly why only 3 crores more money is required for establishment of police outposts. Those who advise the aborigines not to pay taxes did nothing beneficial to the aborigines. They only created a problem for the Govt. because the Govt. had its difficulties in realising arrear taxes at a time. The aborigines themselves were also put to difficulties. Some had to sell their lands. At that time the communists were continuing their reign of terror in the hilly tracts of Tripura and in some areas on the plains, but to-day the communist party lacks the power to raid the thanas. I ask the Hon'ble member. Is there no police force in their father lands, viz. Russia and China? I will be glad to know the sums those Govts. provide for police budget. There is no civilized country where there is no police force. The day when we will be able to

do without the police is still very very remote. Present day civilization can not do without police. The allotment made for the police under the present budget is quite proportionate to our requirements. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in course of his address stated that the refugees who have come to Tripura by exchanging their properties had solved their problems. The Hon'ble leader of the opposition criticised that statement. The Hon'ble member opined that the lands under the possession of the refugees could very well be given to the aborigines. They could possess those lands.

When the country was partitioned and Indian Union and Pakistan were brought into being national leaders assured the minority communities that if there was torture on them in Pakistan and they were compelled to leave Pakistan they would be given shelter in India. Relying on that assurance refugees are coming even now. Some of them have exchanged their properties. These were their personal properties over which the Govt. had no ownership. The Govt., therefore, can not deprive the refugees of the lands they have acquired by their private efforts. I do not know how the opposition leader could speak in that fashion. Under the British rule the police force was utilised for oppressing the people and for suppressing their movement, but to-day the police force is primarily meant to serve the people. This is high time that the Hon'ble member realised this elementary thing. Coming to the question of agriculture I may say that proper steps have been taken. For improvement of agriculture the soil will have to be tested and examined. The budget under consideration envisages steps in that direction. The steps taken are the only conceivable steps to remove the deficit in food grains in Tripura. It is possible to grow wheat in Tripura. In the Kamalpur area several years back aborigines used to grow wheat. 2/5 of Tripura consist of plains and 3/5 of tillas, the last mentioned areas are commonly called hilly tracts. More particularly Baramura, Atharamura, Longthrai and Jampui areas comprise those hilly tracts. Leaving the hills out of consideration the soil of these areas should be tested and steps should be taken to grow various crops which the soil permits and that will go to solve our food problem. The sum

come up to Dharmanagar. It is possible that the line will be extended up to Agartala in near future. If we increase our forest products we may be in a position to export them outside Tripura. Although there is no scarcity of timber in Assam, yet there is some scarcity in upper Assam. We may export timber there. In this way we can increase the revenue resources of Tripura and bring prosperity of Tripura by spending enough money. Examining the budget from various points of view I am convinced that the budget will bring prosperity to Tripura and for that reason I support the budget.

Mr. Speaker : I now call upon Hon'ble member, Shri Dinesh Ch. Deb Barma to participate in the discussion.

Shri Dinesh Deb Barma : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, to-day in this new democratic Institution of ours I congratulate the people of Tripura for their glorious role in the struggle for building up a happy, prosperous Tripura and to have a Govt. of their own choice formed democratically. I bow down my head in respect to the Martyrs who participated in that struggle.

If we scrutiny the budget for the period from 1st July '63 to 31st March '64 we won't be able to tell our people that we would be in a position to improve Tripura over-night. It is not possible to beautify Tripura with roads and avenues, with flowing rivers and fields full of paddy swaying with wind. Examination of the budget reveals that steps have already been taken to improve the condition of Tripura from the military point and to secure the borders of Tripura. No steps have been taken to lay firm foundation of the economic life of the people or of their national life. No steps have been taken to build up a socialistic State. I will discuss some features of the budget and will mention some facts incidentally.

It is known to us that Tripura Territory is principally an agricultural country. 70 to 75% of the inhabitants of Tripura are tillers of the soil. Therefore it is our imperative duty to pay attention to agricultural improvement, viz. measures of irrigation, methods of seed distribution. Only a few days back, the level of

water in the river near Jirania rose up to the hight of 10 ft. We can well imagine the prospect of crop which largely determines the fate of the cultivators. I have been informed to-day that there were torrential showers in Kamalpur and Salema and Mohanpur areas. I have not seen those places and can not, therefore, give you a vivid description of those places. We have read in the paper that the rivers were in spate in the areas like Kailasahar, Sabroom etc. Crops in those areas have been substantially damaged by excessibe water and insects. If we are to bring prosperity to the country we are to destroy the insects and to take flood preventive measures. Examining the budget for the year, 1961-62 and 1963-64 I say that no attention has been paid to the small or big irrigation projects. When the country is largely dependent on agriculture, steps should be taken officially or non-officially to put up embankments and to store up water, otherwise damages will be caused to our crops. During the year 1959 scarcity of rains caused total damage to crops in Maharani area. There was no arrangement to irrigate the lands of that locality. I submitted petitions many times calling attention to those areas, but till to-day no step has been taken. I think that if we can put up embankments there, we will be able to render arable 250 drones of land in that area. For years together embankments are being built in various localities, but as a matter of fact we find that whenever there is a heavy shower the entire locality gets submerged under water. In Kanchanpur area we have scarcity of water. If we lend one or two thousand rupees to the local peasants they can work with tremendous enthusiasm. But the cultivators do not work hard for lack of enthusiasm because they do not feel sure that they would be able to sell the paddy they would be growing. They have not ample means of marketing their produces. We claim that we are representatives of the people, we are anxious about their welfare. But the budget demonstrates that we are completely indifferent to people's well being. Under the head Agriculture a sum of Rs. 35,29,200/- have been allotted, but only a sum of Rs. 2,71,200/- has been actually spent for the cultivators. For repairing the pumping set in Lembuchera Agricultural farm we have allotted

Rs. 15,000/- for Govt. Officers. Every time we think of officers first and then of the cultivators instead of aiming at agricultural improvement we aim at bringing comfort to the Govt Officers. I will narrate an incident to illustrate how loans are distributed amongst the cultivators. Once a wild elephant went bersark and 352 families of cultivators were on the verge of ruination and their entire produce was damaged I submitted a petition so that those cultivators were given financial relief. Govt. officers were sent to the houses of those cultivators to make enquiries and eventually a report was submitted that the damage caused was insignificant. The cultivators did not claim thousands of rupees by way of damage. They prayed for small sums, but the Agriculture Deptt. refused even that small relief. The cultivators depend on their produces. They plan their lives and fulfilment of their hopes on their yield. You can well imagine how distressed they feel when their produces are damaged or destroyed. Formerly, besides jhum they used to grow jute, til, mustard, cotton etc. and used to export the same. Peasantry used to earn in that way. At present those things are not produced. The produce has been kept low artificially by means of law. Food production can not be increased in this fashion.

We are to import 23 thousand tons of foodgrains, but we have no provision in the budget for the peasants.

Rehabilitation of jhumias comes under the head Agriculture. Examining that part of the budget we find that 27 thousand jhumias require rehabilitation; of them 4000 have been given opportunities of rehabilitation, 15,500 are trying to rehabilitate themselves by their own efforts and 7,000 are still to be rehabilitated. Within this long period of 10 years how have we helped them, with money and lands in the matter of rehabilitation. In the year 1955 the Advisory Council for tribal well being was constituted with Shri Jiten Deb-Barma, The District Magistrate and the present Hon'ble Chief Minister. 27 thousand families were given mony @ Rs. 500/- each family, but we do not care to know what is the present condition of those families I can speak with all the emphasis at my command that those jhumias have not been given land to rehabilitate themselves. They make futile applications to various Deptts. The Forest Act promulgated in the year 1961 provided that if any

plantain grove or any jack fruit tree of any private person fell within the area of a protected or reserve forest, the private person would be given compensation or the site on which his trees were standing would be left out. In the State of Tripura I find frequent violation of that law. Therefore I suggest that either from reserve or protected forests those lands be left out or private persons be given compensation. Food problem is the crying need of the day. Without food man can not live. The forest Act means eviction of the people. The Administration is callous to welfare of the people. We do not pay heed to the people concerned for no fault of theirs. I do not understand why forest reserves have been laid out in thickly inhabited areas. I demand that alternative accommodation be given to the people concerned or the forest act be stamped out from the statute book. This is not a question of scheduled caste or tribes or of Caste Hindus. This is a question of life and death. The people can not be so mercilessly evicted. I can submit a list of persons who left their holdings in the year 1960 and who were given more than Rs. 3,000/- by way of compensation. It is surprising that still to-day frivolous cases for alleged cutting down of trees are pending against such persons. I can mention the name of Shri Subal Deb Barma and Shri Narayan Ch. Deb in this connexion. In connexion with these frivolous cases they are to dance attendance in courts incurring costs.

Mr. Speaker : I draw the attention of the Hon'ble member. You should not discuss the cases which are subjudice.

Shri Dinesh Deb Barma : Some Hon'ble members are alleging that some of the jhumias were misled by a political party. This allegation is unsubstantial. Tribal welfare department is sure to take care of the Tribals and to keep them on the proper track. A sum of Rs. 500/- only per family I say, is insufficient for re-settlement of the jhumias. I suggest that when they have been given help to render lands arable they should be given a full sum of Rs. 500/- for the purpose of constructing their houses. The refugees coming from Pakistan were granted loans from Rs. 950/- to Rs. 1,750/- per head. I have no objection to that. I mean to say that the budget should have provided more money for the

re-settlement of the jhumias. At a time when the prevailing price of jute was Rs. 24/- to 25/- per maund co-operative Deptt. distributed hand bills promising that they would purchase jute @ Rs.22/- to 23/- per maund. I want the Govt. to fix the price of jute and also of other necessities of life. We have been elected by the people and it is our duty to see that prices of necessities do not go up. It is no exaggeration to say that the present budget dose not make ample provision to enable the people to live. The budget provides for schools and boarding houses for the education of tribal children. I feel happy for that. But I regret to say that Bengali has been adopted as the medium of instruction. Talking with the children of the school I found that they have not even nodding acquaintance with elements of Bengali language. I suggest that tribal children be instructed through their mother tongue. Backward people can not advance educationally or economically unless proper help is rendered to them. I suggest that ample help be given not only to the tribals, but also other underdeveloped people of Tripura. I know a student, Shri Nilmani Namasudra who has been awaiting for Govt. book grant for last three years, but he is not being given any. It is an imperative duty of the Govt. to help these members of the Scheduled castes and tribes so that they can advance in the sphere of education and other ways.

The allotment of funds for P. W. D for obtaining supply of electricity seems to be funny. For the Dombur project within the Territory of Tripura a sum of Rs. 40 lacs has been allotted. But for obtaining supply of electricity from Umium Hydro electricity project in the State of Assam we have allotted a sum of Rs. 2 crores 15 lacs. If we can successfully implement the Dombur project we will be able to solve the unemployment problem here. The supply of electricity to be obtained locally will go a long way to improve Tripura industrially. But it is surprising that only Rs. 40 lacs has been allotted for Dombur project. Such a budget can not enthuse the people. P. W. D calls for tender twice or thrice, but the roads are not built. Sums are allotted for constructing bridges, but bridges are not constructed as a matter of fact. I must, therefore, say that allotment of funds for these purposes are insufficient. Only 437 miles of pucca road has been constructed but unmetalled

road in villages run up to 400 miles only. This is the indication of our road planning during the interim period. I therefore request that budget be framed in such a way that people's enthusiasm could be aroused so that they could show respect to the representatives in the Legislative Assembly.

The budget does not provide for adequate funds for Industries in Tripura, be it Cottage or small Industries. In my village there is a weaving centre and there is one Instructor there. He is unemployed to-day. There is a weaving society in the village Sadhubari. I want that adequate employment be given to men associated with these weaving centres and employment be given to those who are completely unemployed. The spindles in those centres are lying idle. We can substantially improve the financial condition of Tripura if we could properly utilise the bamboos grown here and start more industry. Such Industries will give employment to 2000 unemployed people. If we start industries connected with til, mustard etc. we can give additional employment to people. We have been hearing for the last 10 years that a paper mill will be started near Kumarghat. Where is that mill? We grow jute in Tripura, but there is no arrangement for converting the jute into bales of jute here. Only some Companies like Bhuturia Co. are in fact engaged in jute baling. If the Govt. paid attention to jute baling I think the problem could be solved. We have no Oil Mill in Tripura. We can very profitably establish Oil Mills and manufacture mustard oil and linseed oil. We are simply to approach the Central Govt. for help.

Some Hon'ble members alleged that occurrence relating to Salema Tahsil was inspired by a political party. The movement could not be inspired because the local people were not blind fools. They did not resist the movement. They have reaped benefits of the movement. The Central Govt. wrote off arrears of taxes to the extent of Rs. 27,11,000/- as a result of the movement. The political party did not reap the advantage of the movement. The actual reapers of benefit were the cultivators. It is, therefore, no use saying that the movement was a movement to mislead people.

Sugar cane cultivation can be started in Tripura. The price of molasses in the market is pretty high. Through Co-operatives formerly some cane grinding machines were installed. We do not know how much income the Govt. derived through these co-operatives. If we do not properly assess the value of our produce and if the peasants are not properly encouraged the country can not improve. The present budget is in my view completely blind to these things and is absolutely disappointing. The budget reveals that many dispensaries have been opened in various places of Tripura but I should say that in view of the number of people inhabiting Tripura the number of dispensaries is not adequate. Further proper medicines for various diseases are not available in those dispensaries. The Doctors in those dispensaries supply a few tablets to the patients and scribble out names of medicines on the hospital tickets requesting the patients to get their supply of medicines from outside. A Dairy has been started at Agartala and an Officer has been appointed for that purpose. Milk from villages is obtained for the purpose of this dairy but that milk is not supplied to the villages. Villagers are given only powder milk. I will maintain that the present budget has not aimed at people's welfare. The budget is top heavy. I demand that the present budget should be completely scrapped and a fresh budget be prepared.

It has been alleged that corruption is rampant. I admit that. I agree that subversive activities should be stopped. If anti-social activities have increased that is due to the evil propensities of local people, outsiders are not injecting corruption here. Simply police can not root out corruption. I admit that we require the police to guard the borders of Tripura surrounded by Pakistan on three sides. But the police alone can not guard our borders. The local people should be made strong enough to resist foreign aggression. Our Premier, Mr. Nehru and some leaders of West Bengal visited NEFA and thereafter observed that NEFA people cultivated their lands with arms and ammunitions tied to their backs. I demand that similar steps should be taken in the Union

Territory of Tripura so that the local people can resist foreign aggression. Inspite of allotment of huge sums for the police under the budget, theft of cattle and dacoities are frequent in the borders. The police is inefficient and helpless. The police can not increase the power of resistance of the people. So there is no justification for spending so much money for police. On the contrary curtailing the police budget the money should have been distributed amongst the local people so that they could become physically stronger and get themselves equipped with arms. These are my main attacks on this budget.

Hon'ble Speaker—Now I would call upon Shri Abdul Wazed of the congress side to participate in the discussion.

Shri Abdul Wazed—Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this is the fourth day of the budget session. The budget which was placed before us on the first day receives my whole-hearted support. I compliment those who are responsible for framing the budget. Further I congratulate those whose movement ultimately led to the formation of this Legislative Assembly.

While discussing the budget the prime duty of ours is to bear in mind our heavy responsibility. The Opposition party has criticised the budget and our party members have supported it. It is not known what will be the upshot of this discussion. The opposition has jaundiced eyes and they will try to compare a grain of linseed with a palm fruit. They have told that the budget should have been framed in such a way that we would be on par with other States. But do they know the situation we are confronted with ? On the one side the barbarous China has attacked India, on the other forming a pact with China Pakistan is committing aggression on various parts of Tripura. Added to the external enemies we have enemies within our frontiers. For these reasons there was urgent necessity for allotting a heavy sum for police budget. It is not surprising that the opposition party feels dissatisfied and is adversely criticising the budget. In my opinion the budget should have allotted still heavier sum for police so that the unpatriotic enemies within the country could be ruthlessly suppressed. We are to take adequate steps so that our external enemies

can not continue their aggression. The opposition party urges that this money could have been better utilised in development projects and in uplifting of peasants from abject poverty. It would have been better if we could solve our food problem, education problem, jhumia re-settlement problem, refugee rehabilitation problem. But prior to solving of these problems we are to defend our borders. Otherwise the solution of the problems would not enure to our benefit. Considered from that point of view, defence of the country is of paramount importance. Allotment of Rs. 3,37,00,000/- for the defence of the frontier Territory of Tripura cut off from the main land of India can by no stretch of imagination be considered excessive. Perhaps more money was needed. The only means of communication of Agartala with greater India is Assam-Agartala road. Even that road does not fully serve its purpose. Because of geographical reasons we have that road interrupted by rivers and rivulets every two to three furlongs. Communication is very often interrupted because of breaches in the bridge and lands slides. For these reasons it is difficult to maintain communication in the State through those roads. To protect the borders of India we require, therefore, our own police and our own militia. We can not expect to get help from Assam and West Bengal as soon as we need it.

For availing ourselves of that help also we should have adequate means of communication. We are to resist the foreign aggression by all means. Therefore, I maintain that the budget has been carefully prepared and I am confident the majority of inhabitants of Tripura share my views and will support me.

Dealing with the food problem members of the opposition stated that the Govt. entertains step-motherly attitude towards the tribals and is desirous of seeing their total annihilation. If there was any foundation for such criticism I would have heard the report of death of at least one person for starvation. It is true that because of integration of Tripura with India we are confronted with the problem of food, but the Govt. has taken adequate steps to meet the problem and to import enormous quantity of foodgrains. I have not seen the report of death due to starvation of anybody in any paper,

nor have received any oral report of such death. The Govt. is fully conscious of its responsibility to its citizens, be he a tribal, a Mohammadan or a Hindu. Many of the allegations made by the opposition party are frivolous and carry no sense at all. It has been alleged that refugees got a dole of Rs. 955/- whereas the tribals got a dole of Rs. 500/- only. We should not forget that the Govt. assured help to the refugees who came to Tripura for sacking their lands and houses in a completely destitute condition. So the Govt. was duty bound to render them help. My previous speaker, Shri Sunil Dutt referred to this aspect of the problem. Perhaps we do not owe any constitutional obligation to the people who were temporarily residing within the borders of this Territory. The members of the opposition have referred to Dhebar Commission report, and urged that unless we helped generously members of scheduled castes and tribes it would be idle for us to hope comprehensive prosperity of Tripura. I suppose the Govt. has taken proper steps in this regard. The tribal brothers of ours who had no permanent residence have been helped with Rs 500/- each for the purpose of having permanent residence. In the circumstances the question of discrimination can not arise. We have provided the tribal students with boarding house. We have made adequate arrangement for the re-settlement of jhumias. We faced an economic crisis only the other day, but the Govt. did not take any discriminatory measure. The Govt. started Test Relief operations in those areas only, which were preponderantly inhabited by the tribals. The jhumias have thereby received greater benefit out of test relief. We love the jhumias. We expect that jhumias should reciprocate that love. Looking at the problem in the way stated above I am satisfied that the opposition criticism is unreasonable.

It has been alleged that the present budget does not make provision for industries in Tripura. I have already stated that communication between the rest of India and Tripura is rather difficult. We are to import from out side raw goods, machinaries, and plants. Unless we have properly developed means of communication how can we bring those things to this Territory ? The opposition party has not offered any suggestion in this matter. Our

hopes have been roused by extension of railway lines up to Dharmanagar. The problems which await solution because of lack of means of communication may now be nearer solution. I mean to say industries may be started in near future and problem of unemployment may be eased. Allied problems will, I am sure, become somewhat easy. It has been alleged that the budget does not contemplate any constructive activity. It is true that the cultivator does not get the entire crop he produces. But how can we prevent natural calamities ? Perhaps the members of the opposition party have not carefully examined the budget and are, therefore, unaware of the flood protection measures envisaged under the budget. I am doubtful if the members of the opposition maintain their contacts with their constituencies. In the areas from which members of the opposition have come National Extension Service Block and Projects have been started and V. L. Ws and Agricultural Extension Officers have been working hard. Those officers are instructing the cultivators how best they can increase the yield from their lands, how they can prevent destruction of crop by pests and insects. Determined as the members of the opposition are to criticise the budget adversely without any justification whatsoever, they have deliberately shut their eyes to these things. Coming to major and minor irrigation projects I would say we require technical personnel. I doubt if amidst the 12 lacs of people inhabiting Tripura we have only 2 men having requisite technical knowledge. In the said circumstances how can we start major and minor irrigation projects ? Still the budget provides for funds for training technical personnel. If we bring technologists from outside the members of the opposition party will cry hoarse that the budget is top heavy. If we are to bring experts from outside we are to give them proper pay, proper residence and proper vehicles so that they can supervise the operations. Unless persons coming from outside are given these facilities we can not expect the best out of them. When we have framed schemes for irrigation we are to allot proper funds for execution of the same.

It is alleged that the budget simply provides for funds for residence of Officers and for their cars. We may say that we have

no medical officer. If we are to bring properly qualified medical officers from outside we are to give them proper facilities and remuneration, more particularly when we bring such officers from West Bengal because in West Bengal they enjoy various facilities. Unless we give these Officers comparable facilities, if not more, such qualified Officers will not come to Tripura. I am happy to note that even when we are unable to give those Officers ample facilities they are coming because they consider us as their fellow citizens, all of us being citizens of India. If we constantly criticise the facilities given to these Officers we can not expect best services from them. When China committed aggression upon India a group of men sided with China and wanted to make over the Territory of Tripura to the Chinese aggressors. I am sure that the steps we have taken under the budget to bring material prosperity to Tripura will go a long-way to ward off Chinese aggression. It may be that for that reason the members of the opposition are feeling sore.

Coming to the subject of education I may say that we are aware of the few educational Institutions we had during the days of the Maharaja. At that time we had only one College. Now there is no area in Tripura where we do not have atleast a Primary school. In every sub-division we have Jr. High schools, High schools and Higher Secondary schools. I expected that the members of the opposition would change the tactics they formerly adopted during the days of Territorial Council. I am distressed to notice that members of the opposition are firmly fixed in their bad habits. They can not get rid of their prejudice. The members of the opposition allege that dispensaries do not supply medicines to the diseased. It is common knowledge that ample stock of medicines for treatment of various diseases can not be maintained in every dispensaries. The Govt. can not take upon itself the responsibility of treatment of every T. B. and Cancer patient and can not supply medicines readily. For that reason it may not be said that there are not ample medical facilities. Everyone knows that formerly Pox, Cholera, Malaria used to take a heavy toll of lives every year. Those epidemics have now, for all practical purposes, been eradicated. This speaks a volume regarding amplitude of medical facilities in this Territory of ours.

They say that seed of corruption is in the police. When we issue appointment letters to various people certainly we do not appoint undesirable and the corrupt ones. Still some of the Officers get corrupt. We are not blind to this aspect. We were not idle during the days of Territorial Council I believe rigidity of supervision will increase under the Legislative Assembly The budget is not at all unsatisfactory. On the contrary it will go a long-way to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the Tripura people I, therefore, whole-heartedly support the budget.

JAI HIND

Hon'ble Speaker : I would now call upon the Hon'ble Dy. Minister, Shri M. L. Bhowmick to participate in the discussion.

Shri M. L. Bhowmick : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, during a critical phase of our public life and history of our country the Legislative Assembly of Tripura has come into being The great leaders of Tripura who laid down their lives during the struggle for creation of this Assembly deserve my sincere homage and I bow down my head to them in respect and gratitude.

Hon'ble Chief Minister as Finance Minister has presented the budget. The budget has been framed with an eye to all-sided improvement of Tripura. For that reason I welcome the budget. I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister. All the members present here know that Tripura was backward in the matter of education, in the matter of communication, in the matter of health and medical measures. We have taken rapid strides towards improvement since India attained independence. At present the principle problem of ours is the problem of food. We will be failing in our duty if we can not solve that problem. For that reason to increase our food production we have allotted Rs 35 crores under the head Agriculture. Till to-day Tripura is dependent on imported food-grains. Otherwise our financial distress will deepen. Anyhow

we must increase our food production. In course of his budget speech the Hon'ble Minister said that we would become self-reliant in the matter of food if we adopt some measures, viz. we reclaim waste lands, we convert our one crop yielding lands into two crop yielding ones, we introduce better methods of irrigating lands, use better type of seeds and mechanise agriculture, preserve trees and maintain adequate supply of chemicals and other fertilisers. Cash crops of ours are Cotton, Jute, Potato, Pulses, Sugar cane etc. Appropriate measures have been taken to increase the yield per acre. Steps have been taken to send boys of Tripura outside to enable them to receive appropriate training and education in agriculture so that we can meet the shortage of experts in agriculture. On an area of 50 acres of land in Arundhutinagar we have started an Institute of research and agricultural exhibition. Researches have been conducted there in respect of various types of crops. Measures have been taken for soil testing free of cost. We have started a soil testing centre also. We have adopted measures to protect the soil and to protect our water resources. We have taken measures to increase production of fish in Tripura. We have attained considerable success in the field of Secondary and Higher Secondary education. During the Third Five Year Plan we intend to enlist 95% of the children of the age group 6-11 in schools. This is a big project. The budget presented contemplates starting of a B. T. College within the Union Territory of Tripura. The demand for increasing the number of Colleges is gaining in strength. Steps have been taken for starting a Science Laboratory in the M. B. B. College to facilitate higher studies in science within the Territory of Tripura. We are thinking of steps so that our boys can have Post-Graduate education facilities here. We have taken steps for improvement of our culture too.

The money we have allotted under the budget for industries will go a longway to fulfil the industrial possibilities of Tripura. Economic prospect of Tripura appears to be fairly bright. Industries in Tripura must be developed if we are to bring prosperity to Tripura. There are insuperable difficulties in the matter of starting heavy industries in Tripura. Necessarily we are to

encourage Cottage industries such as Handlooms. For that purpose loans will be granted.

Means of communication within Tripura have considerably improved. Formerly there was no roads connecting villages in Tripura. We have allotted funds under the budget for building up of 400 miles of roads to connect the villages.

In addition to Rs. 2 crores we have allotted Rs. 2,50,000/- for the P. W. D. A good portion of this allotment will undoubtedly go to provide the Officers with cars and residences. It is true that Tripura will not immediately get benefit of this heavy allotment of funds. Still I ask the members ; have not the means of communication in Tripura improved recently considering the history of Tripura 15 years back ? At that time there was no road in Tripura connecting the villages. We have at present built many roads. Under the present budget we plan to build 437 miles of pacca road and 400 miles of unmetalled road. Assam-Agartala road is a life line of Tripura by common consent. Under the present budget we plan to metal 125 miles of that road. Is not this a sure proof of development of roads in Tripura ? The members of opposition have their attention fixed exclusively on big pacca houses made for Officers. They have shut their eyes deliberately to the metalled and unmetalled roads we have built to connect the villages and the towns. They forget that construction of pacca houses is in a way profitable, it saves the Govt. of enormous recurring expenditure. Construction of pacca houses for Govt. Officers is, therefore, perfectly justified. Coming to tribal welfare some of the members have alleged, without any justification, that the tribals are being pushed to death. I would emphatically contradict such allegation. Some members have stated that for want of funds development of Tripura is being impeded. This assertion is also lacking in foundation. Development works are hampered not for want of funds, but for other reasons.

The Rehabilitation Deptt. is mindful of tribal welfare and has taken appropriate steps with regard to their education, health etc. Cottage industries have been started for them. Orchards have been opened for their benefit. Training centres have been opened

for their training in agriculture. Certainly these measures do not mean extinction of the jhumias in near future. The present budget plans re-settlement of 1000 families of jhumias. It does not, therefore, lie in the mouth of any opposition member to say that the present budget does not provide for funds for re-settlement of jhumias. It may be said that Govt. has not been able to give good lands to all the jhumias, but we should realise that we are faced with scarcity of good land. For that reason some of the jhumias have been given lands on the top of tillas. Some of the jhumias have not yet received any loan or dole. But steps are being taken in that behalf. It is not correct to say that the Govt. is unmindful of the problem facing the refugees, who have come to Tripura after exchanging their lands. The duty of rehabilitating these refugees is of the Central Govt. and not of this Government. Unless Central Govt. co-operates we can not do much. Members of the Govt. are going to Delhi to see that proper steps are taken in this direction. In the meantime first and second batches of refugees have started for Dandakaranya. The 4th batch is also on the run.

In regard to Forest protection one Hon'ble member has observed that in order to protect the forest jhum cultivation of some of the jhumias has been forcibly stopped and appropriate steps for their re-settlement have not been taken or that they have not been given any alternative means of livelihood. These allegations are far from being correct. We see that various measures have been taken to grant loans and doles to the jhumias. In the matter of aforestation the prior claim of the jhumias are being taken into consideration. Forests are a source of wealth and income of Tripura. Necessity of protecting and preserving Forest is supreme. Forests prevent soil erosion and thereby increase production of food. Role of forests in the economy of Tripura can not, therefore, be over emphasised. It has been alleged that the money allotted for the Police department is excessive in comparison with allotment for other purposes. There is no force in such a contention. It has been suggested that a big portion of this money could have been utilised for development purposes but it is common knowledge that Tripura is surrounded by Pakistan on three sides and Pakistanis very often commit

aggression on our Territory. For this reason we are to post our own police to protect our borders. When the local people be alive to their responsibilities in the matter necessity for maintaining a police force may diminish. Such a day is remote. Still the necessity of maintaining a police force to protect our borders can not be disputed. We plan to build 12 police outposts along the border under the budget. Anti-social activities of people prevailing in the State require to be suppressed. We require a police force for that purpose also. It is for the anti-social elements that large number of cattle and huge quantities of timber are being smuggled out of Tripura every day. Even foodgrains are also taken out. These anti-social elements should be ruthlessly suppressed with the help of the police. I do not admit that police is corrupt. If the police was corrupt we would not have given them so much power. May be some members of the police force be corrupt but for that reason we should not indulge in any generalisation. Coming to the subject of Health I must say first of all that formerly malaria, pox etc. used to take a heavy toll of lives in Tripura. Now-a-days not only in towns but also in villages we do not have to face epidemics. By starting National Malaria Eradication Programme and popularising inoculation and vaccination we have been fighting the epidemics valiantly. We have a dispensary for every ten thousand inhabitants and in every sub-division we have a primary health centre. We have eleven hospitals, nine primary health centres in this State. I doubt if any other State has progressed so much within so short a time in the matter of health. The Govt. of our Territory deserves our warm congratulation for the health measures taken.

Some members of the opposition party expressed doubt that we may not be able to solve our food problem at any time. If we get the co-operation of our people I think it will be possible for us to tackle the food problem. Without the peoples' co-operation foundation of economy can not be well laid. It is again idle to expect improvement over-night. We are to wait and see. For the present we are to work hard to implement the projects contemplated under the budget in the field of Agriculture, Industry, Education and development. If we are sincere in the matter of implementation

of these projects economy of Tripura will improve and allotment under the budget will be justified. I mean to say, keeping in view the welfare of the 12 lacs of inhabitants of Tripura a proper budget has been framed and if we co-operate with the Government to implement the plans envisaged in the budget we may bring welfare to Tripura.

“JAI HIND”

(HON'BLE DEPUTY SPEAKER ERSAD ALI CHOUDHURY ON THE CHAIR.)

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker : I would call upon the Hon'ble Member Shri Krishnadas Bhattacharjee to participate in the debate

Shri Krishna Das Bhattacharjee : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this budget of ours is new. This is the first budget to be placed before the Legislative Assembly. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has prepared the budget. The budget takes into account revenue & expenditure for the year 1963-64. It is known to all concerned that this budget was originally passed by the Parliament. But the budget was scrapped because the Legislative Assembly was promulgated in this territory of ours. Whenever a Legislative Assembly is in existence the budget has got to be approved by the Assembly. After the Ministry was formed an AD-HOC sanction was obtained from the Cabinet to defray the expenses of a few days. It was felt that unless we prepare a budget soon and get the same approved by the Assembly various works started by various departments might come to a stand still and progress of various projects would be interrupted. Our Finance Minister hurriedly made some changes in the budget and placed the same before us bearing in mind the urgent necessity of getting the budget passed by the Assembly. Considering the circumstances narrated above, I would request all members to support the budget unanimously. I thank the Finance Minister for the pains he took to prepare and place the budget in the Assembly within so short a time.

The Opposition party wants the budget to be thrown aside and alleges that convenience of all sections of people has not been taken into consideration. I see no deficiency in the budget. So I cannot endorse the views of the opposition members. I would

go to the length of saying that unless the budget is passed immediately the public of Tripura will be seriously prejudiced. Looking at the problem from this point of view I would request the members of the other side to lend their support to the budget.

In a budget there are two heads, one head relates to plans and the other head relates to recurring expenditure. Under the head 'Plans' we find development works. All the development works are undertaken subject to the approval of the Central Government. The State Government is, therefore, unable to increase allotments under the Head 'Plans' even if it so wishes. I further beg to submit that the present budget has been prepared on the model of the budget of the previous year and is in conformity with First, Second & Third Five Year Plans. There is, therefore, no earthly reason to throw out the budget. I would rather request the members of the other side to see that sums allotted under the budget are properly spent. Even if bigger allotments are made but sums are not properly spent, bigger allotments lose their significance.

(MR. SPEAKER IS ON THE CHAIR)

Shri Krishna Das Bhattacharjee : Increment of allotment for plans is not of much moment. What is important is that the plans should be executed so long the responsibility for executing the plans was in the hands of Tripura Administration but now it is in the hands of the Cabinet. It is, therefore, right and proper that we should offer our suggestion and co-operation to the Cabinet so that the plans are correctly and properly implemented. Tripura has several problems to pay attention to. They are the problems of agriculture, problems of means of communication, a border problem, food problem and un-employment problem. Various problems are related to the unemployment problem. So we should proceed on a little bit slowly. If the members examined in details items of expenditure connected with every scheme separately and offered their suggestions thereon that would have been good. It is not good saying in general terms that the budget ought to be scrapped. If the Hon'ble Members examined the

budget in their details and offered specific . suggestions the Cabinet could gather some idea and could consider the necessity of opening up discussion with the Planning Commission. But the speeches made here are lacking in concreto details. The solution of the food problem lies in agriculture. Everyone is aware of the nature ravages on Tripura for last few years. Members of the Opposition Party are complaining that embankments have not been put up. There is some justification in the complaint. But the rivers of Tripura are peculiar and cannot be easily tamed. It has been noticed that if embankment is put up at one place, entire area gets submerged under water unless we properly survey the basement area and water basin of this rivers we will be wasting some land and will be unnecessarily evicting some men. If this survey costs the establishment of Rs. 94,000/- that money will be well spent. The other problem is that rivers of Tripura eventually reach Pakistan In Pakistan embankments have been erected near the mouth of these rivers so that water from Tripura cannot go out. This causes overflow of water in the rivers of Tripura and consequent flood. Only the other day it was broadcast amongst the people by the Publicity Department that breaches in the embankment may be caused near Agartala and the town might go under water. I, therefore, suggest that we should not put up embankments hapazardly. We should prior to that undertake a proper and careful survey.

In course on discussion on the food problem the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that during the Third Five Year Plan it might be possible for us to produce adequate food and we may be spared the necessity of importing 23,000 tons of food-grains. This assertion gives rise to high hopes in our breasts, as price of this imported food grains we pay more than Rs. 1,40,20,000/- every year. If our hopes are fulfilled we will be in a position to save this much of money and this money will bring prosperity to Tripura. It may be that in course of the few years this money will increase itself to 20/25 crores of ours. It is gratifying to see that children of agriculturists are getting training in matters of agriculture and the tribals are initiated to our methods of cultivation.

If the tribals give up their old method and adopt our method that will mean increase in the production of food-grains. I feel sure that officers of the Agriculture Department will impart to the agriculturists lessons in modern methods of agriculture. I would request the members or the Cabinet to look to this and to earn the gratitude of the people. It is time that we start bold experiments in cultivation in the hilly tracts.

Our Chief Minister has assured us that steps are being taken to clear up old tanks and reservoirs so that production of fish may increase. It is known that in the villages almost every inhabitant of Tripura has a tank of his own. If these tanks are supervised the fish position may improve. If necessary, prices of spawns may be fixed and spawns obtained from owners of tanks. We should seriously consider if a scheme in this respect can be adopted.

Coming to the subject of education we see that a plan to set up a B. T. College has been taken. This augers well. Every year we are to send a number of teachers outside Tripura for training. The B. T. College contemplated will remove the scarcity of trained teachers. We will thus advance in the sphere of education. The plan regarding facilities for post-graduate study in Tripura is also welcome. Unless we adopt such a plan we will never be able to fill up our multipurpose schools with requisite number of teachers. We are bringing teachers for our multipurpose schools from outside every year. We will be spared that difficulty. If we make arrangements for giving education to our boys and increase facilities for technical education but cannot give them employment then the whole scheme will end in fiasco. I would request the cabinet to look to this and to consider how many workshops we have or how many more we can set up in near future. I am under the impression that the condition of automobile workshops we have here is deplorable. The cabinet should also take into consideration the number of automobile engineers we require. Solution of the un-employment problem lies in setting up of industries. Our Chief Minister informs us that he has sent appeals

to industrialists to set up industries in Tripura and industrialists have given response. Industries of Tripura cannot be nationalised. So we will have to depend on industries carried on by private persons. Unless adequate number of industries are started in course of 2/3 years the problem of un-employment in Tripura may assume serious proportion.

Some members of the opposition party are asking why we are not going ahead with the Dumbur project and instead of that obtaining our supply of electricity from Assam. To make the best use of a Hydro-electricity scheme we must have a minimum consumption of electricity in the area. Such conditions have not been created in Tripura. So if in the above circumstances we purchase electricity from Assam, we cannot be accused. Their line will run up to Cachar. We will have to bear the cost of line from Cachar to here. Money spent on this project will certainly not be loss to us. When we will have our Dumbur project, we may discontinue supplies from Assam. We must have Hydro-electricity project of our own to feed our industries. Till we have our own project we may with convenience obtain our supplies from Assam.

It has been alleged that the tribal children do not understand elementary Bengali. But we should bear in mind that Bengali has been used for official purpose from the time of the Maharaja and official records were made in Bengali. Maharaja fully understood that Bengali was a developed language and for that reason adopted Bengali as an official language. It is very very difficult to develop the tribal languages and it will be very expensive to bring into publications of tribal languages more so when they have no script of their own. For the improvement of the tribal languages the Government, however, is awarding scholarships and stipends on a large scale. The Tripuri programme of the radio bears ample testimony of Government's anxiety to develop the tribal languages. Still Bengali is a more developed language and it is wise to take advantage of Bengali. Opposition party has criticised the present budget as top heavy. But for the provision of schools officers are required even though the budget becomes top heavy. Roads in Tripura have considerably improved during last 10/12 years and

inhabitants of Tripura will admit that road position of Tripura is satisfactory. If the roads we have planned to build are really big we would not have the necessity of any more long roads. We have adequate feeder roads. It is now possible to reach every place of any sub-division of Tripura in car. We cannot accelerate our road programme because we have no stone chips or quarry here in Tripura. We are also faced with acute scarcity of labourers. Formerly we used to get stones from Assam. But the supply has considerably decreased. Regarding tribal welfare I may say that all of you know that Hon'ble Shri Raj Prasad Choudhury, departmental Deputy Minister lives in the Head Quarters for a few days only and most often moves amongst the tribal people in the hilly tracts. We are, therefore, confident that conditions of the Tribal people will improve soon. The refugees from Pakistan are being sent to Dandakaranya. The economic condition of Tripura is far from happy. The refugees will prove to be heavy burden. So what the government has done is quite correct. We should bear in mind that the government of Assam has not been able to send refugees coming to Assam to Dandakaranya. Our Cabinet deserves congratulations for what they have done regarding the refugee problem. Forests are a source of wealth of Tripura. It is proper that we should preserve and protect forests. Now-a-days we do not get wood and timber in abundance. We do not get our supply from Assam even. So it is essential that our forest are protected. Forests will improve the economy of Tripura.

The Police Department has been most adversely criticised, I do not know the reasons for such bitter criticism. When we have troubles on our borders every now and then we must have a Police force adequate to cope with the problem. There was firing in Lati tilla area only the other day. Every body knows what happened here last year. I would not have raised any objection even if more money were allotted for the Police Budget. We must give our Police Force full military training to meet our present problem.

Coming to the subject of Health we find nothing to feel disappointed. No one can forget G. B. Hospital. Some of the wards

which are not yet opened like T. B. wards etc. have since been completed and in course of a few months those wards may be opened.

Our communications Minister has tried his best to improve facilities of communication. Railway lines have extended up to Dharmanagar. When the railway traffic will be started and conditions will improve the communication problem here will become somewhat easy. Attempts do not become successful always, still we are to make sincere and determined attempt to solve our problems. It is true that plane fare from Tripura should be reduced. But the Central Government does not agree to that proposal. Still we should continue our efforts to reduce the plane fare in the end. I support the budget and thus conclude my speech.

Mr. Speaker : I would now call on the Hon'ble Member Shri Rajkumar Kamaljit Singh to participate in the budget discussion.

Shri Rajkumar Kamaljit Singh : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in course of the budget discussion to-day first of all I remember respectfully Hariganga Basak. As a comrade of ours he led the movement for establishment of a democratic Government here, courted imprisonment in Pakistan and died in the prison. I pay my respectful homage to him and also to un-named comrades who took part in the movement. The budget presented before the Legislative Assembly provides for revenue and expenditure for next 9 months. Deep thought has been bestowed on the matter of preparation of the present budget for this problem-ridden and hilly territory of ours. The budget takes into consideration the present condition of Tripura and its problems. The members on the other side have criticised the budget in various ways. The small State of Tripura was inhabited by only 6 lakhs of people prior to attainment of independence. Now the population has increased to 12 lakhs. Moreover, Tripura is bounded on three sides by Pakistan. If we focus our attention on the internal side of Tripura we find that a large number of people have come over from East Pakistan leaving their hearth and home to mingle with the local people. We have in addition Hill tribes, Bengalees, Mohamedans and Manipuries. This is the social structure of Tripura. In preparing the five year plans

the Govt. of India has paid its special attention to Tripura. But due to ill luck our progress has been slow and anti-social elements have always been quick in the matter of creating troubles. The principal problem of Tripura is the problem of roads. The anti-social elements are putting up obstacles in the matter of finding solution to that problem. In the matter of re-settlement of jhumias we have seen how the anti-social elements mis-lead the simple jhumia folk. I may cite an instance. When I had been to Belonia area inhabited by tribals along with our Hon'ble Deputy Minister Shri Raj Prasad Choudhury, I found a group of anti-social people spreading dis-satisfaction amongst the jhumias and making them mouth slogans like "Do'nt stop jhum cultivation. We want schools for jhumias and also tube wells and simila rother slogans." It is common knowledge that jhumias can not live together. I do not know how they could demand schools and tube-wells. We want to give them the things they demand and for that purpose we want to bring them down in the plains. But the anti social elements are misleading them and leading them to their own doom.

Now we want new science and technology, new application of knowledge and science and a new generation of technicians. We have taken steps in that behalf. But the Opposition party is putting up various obstacles. If we are to bring technicians, we are to spend money for them. If we allot money for them under the budget the members of the Opposition party will say that the budget is top heavy. There were floods in the Abhoynagar area and other areas. Flood control measures are being thought out and planned. In this matter we require Engineers. But the members of the Opposition Party will continue their unjust criticism. If we really want to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the 12 lakh inhabitants of Tripura we cannot help preparing a top heavy budget. We find that the members of the opposite have developed habit of putting up obstacles. We should not worry for that.

The members of the opposite party are angry over allotment of funds for the police. But I may draw the attention of the members of this Assembly that at the base of hillocks of Tripura there are unlicensed factories for manufacturing arms and

ammunition. The Police has recovered a number of unlicensed guns. The members of the opposite party are doing their best to defeat our plans. We want, therefore, an efficient police to ruthlessly suppress anti-social elements. All of us know the troubles on the borders. For that reason a somewhat heavy sum has been allotted for the Police. This was absolutely necessary for protecting our borders and suppressing the anti-socials. The budget aims at all round improvement of Tripura. So I support the budget.

Mr. Speaker : I would now call on Hon'ble Member Shri Umesh Lal Singh to participate in the budget discussion.

Shri Umesh Lal Singh : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, getting this opportunity to speak in the first budget session of the Legislative Assembly I feel extremely happy and proud. This is the first budget session after attainment of independence. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has prepared the budget after deep thinking and considering the various problems. I propose to speak something in support of that budget. This budget is in conformity with the five year plan. For the manner the budget has been prepared the Hon'ble Chief Minister deserves praise from all of us.

It is 6 P.M.

Mr. Speaker : The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. to-morrow. General discussion of the budget will continue and the member continuing will have the floor.
